

# WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT THE MIDTERMS?

*Because OUR FREEDOM IS ON THE BALLOT!*



**Freedom over our bodies** Being able to make decisions about our body and family size is a critical component of freedom - perhaps the most basic of freedoms. Pregnancy is a complex medical condition that carries tremendous risks. We cannot go back to a time when women are refused treatment for life threatening pregnancies. And now Republicans have introduced a bill to ban abortions *nationally*. The bill contains no exceptions after 15 weeks, when abortions are almost always to save the mother's life or when the fetus is not viable. Republicans are also looking to ban *contraception*. 96% of US House Republicans voted against protecting access to contraception.



**Freedom to live in a healthy environment** Severe floods, droughts, devastating wildfires, and melting ice caps are all symptoms of a sick planet. If left to continue, parts of the planet will become unlivable, leading to widespread famine and starvation, displaced people, and mass migration. Ultimately, we all will feel this pressure. The time is now to build on the first climate change bill passed by Democrats this summer, and to stop the damage while simultaneously creating good-paying clean energy jobs.



**Economic freedom - to work, take care of our families, and retire with dignity** People who work for a living deserve to earn a living wage. We deserve to retire with full Social Security and Medicare. It's *OUR* money, paid in advance through payroll withholding taxes. Our economy is recovering better from the pandemic than most developed countries: job growth is strong, wages are up, and the deficit is going down. The Inflation Reduction Act passed by Democrats will cut costs, keep medical expenses down, protect our climate, and reduce the deficit. **NOT A SINGLE REPUBLICAN VOTED FOR IT.** Democrats want to strengthen the economy for all by supporting middle-class Americans and making the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes. Republicans want to give tax cuts to the rich and the corporations, and they want to eliminate or cripple Social Security and Medicare.



**Freedom to learn, pray and shop safely** *We all have the right to live our lives free from gun violence*; to know that our loved ones can go to school, church or even the grocery store **AND COME HOME SAFELY**. A basic function of government is to protect its citizens. We need to continue passing legislation that protects the rights of responsible gun owners **AND** keeps guns out of the hands of those that should not own them. We need sensible control of the weapons and high-capacity magazines that belong only in the hands of trained military, not citizens.



**Freedom to vote and have our vote count** In this country, each of us has the right to have our voice heard and our vote counted. America has always been the land of one person, one vote. Yet now there are efforts to manipulate the system through gerrymandering, voter suppression, and big money. Today's extreme MAGA Republicans have used conspiracy theories and the Big Lie to subvert our very democracy. They've proposed changes to election laws and even to the PA constitution that would unfairly manipulate the way votes are counted and districts are drawn. Democrats are fighting to protect the most fundamental right of ALL Americans to vote in free and fair elections.

America is at a critical juncture. The November 8<sup>th</sup> election is **ALL ABOUT** freedom, fairness, and a better future. Pennsylvania voters have a chance to impact whether we move forward or backwards as a state and as a country. Together we will elect:

- One U.S. Senator and every U.S. Congressperson
- PA Governor, PA Lt. Governor, 1/2 of PA State Senate, and every PA State Representative

**Please VOTE for Democrats up and down the ballot on November 8, 2022.**

*See the reverse side for candidate positions.*

## WARNING! Republicans are Determined to Eliminate Checks-and-Balances

The Republican majority in Harrisburg have embraced a new trick to push through their unpopular policies: veto-proof constitutional amendments. To amend the Pennsylvania constitution, the PA House and Senate must pass a bill by a simple majority in 2 consecutive sessions. It then becomes a ballot question, and typically appears on our ballots in an off-year primary when fewer people vote. If a majority vote YES, it immediately becomes law. The Governor cannot veto it, and the courts cannot overturn it. The Philadelphia Bar Association passed a resolution this year opposing the use of constitutional amendments as a substitute for the checks-and-balances of the legislative process.

In a late-night session last Spring, Republicans passed a surprise bill to place 5 proposed amendments on the ballot. The amendments would make it harder to vote, make it easier for politicians to interfere with or not count our votes, shift power from the Governor to the Legislature, AND take away the guarantee of a woman's right to abortion services. If Republicans win control of the PA House and Senate in November, these questions will be on our ballots in 2023, a risk we cannot allow. **This election it is CRITICAL to vote for all Democrats for the Pennsylvania House and Senate.**

*Please VOTE on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

## COMPARE THE CANDIDATES

### Pennsylvania Governor

| Issue  | Josh Shapiro | Doug Mastriano |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Supports and will protect Pennsylvania's common-sense abortion laws                    | YES          | NO             |
| Will appoint a Secretary of State to uphold the law and <i>COUNT ALL LEGAL VOTES</i>   | YES          | NO             |
| Considers climate change "fake science" / supports drilling in state parks and forests | NO           | YES            |
| Supports eliminating the need for a permit or license to carry a firearm               | NO           | YES            |
| Will fully fund public schools, support teachers, and ensure parents have a voice      | YES          | NO             |

### U.S. Senator

| Issue   | John Fetterman | Mehmet Oz |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| Supports a federal ban on abortion  | NO             | YES       |
| Supports voting rights: the Freedom to Vote Act and the John R Lewis Voting Act   | YES            | NO        |
| Believes climate change is an existential threat and supports transitioning to clean energy while creating good clean energy Union jobs | YES            | NO        |
| Supports tighter gun regulations - universal background checks / banning military grade assault weapons                                 | YES            | NO        |
| Believes the rich and corporations should pay their fair share  | YES            | NO        |